Guest Profile Reset Setup

This guide outlines the configuration of a Windows 11 local account to function as a guest account. Each session is automatically wiped after system shutdown or restart, ensuring privacy and a clean slate for every user.

1. Overview

Objective: Create a stable, self-resetting guest-like user account for public/shared use in a reading room or conference space.

How it works (we will use "Padilla Reading Room" throughout this guide):

- A local account called **"Padilla Reading Room"** is created.
- The user profile is automatically deleted on each system startup using **DelProf2.exe**, ensuring no user data is retained.
- A Windows Scheduled Task runs this cleanup script with SYSTEM-level privileges.

2. Tools Used

- **DelProf2.exe** (by Helge Klein): Safely removes Windows user profiles, including file data and registry keys.
- **Scheduled Task**: Executes the profile reset script on system startup with elevated privileges.

3. Setup Steps

Step 1: Create the Local User

Run the following in an elevated Command Prompt:

net user "Padilla Reading Room" /add /active:yes

net localgroup Users "Padilla Reading Room" /add

Optionally set a blank password:

net user "Padilla Reading Room" ""

(Note: you can skip this if you create the account using "Other Users" in Windows Settings)

Step 2: Download and Place DelProf2

1. Download from: https://helgeklein.com/free-tools/delprof2-user-profile-deletion-tool/
2. Extract and place **DelProf2.exe** in: **C:\Tools\DelProf2.exe**

Step 3: Create the Cleanup Script

Create a new script: **C:\Tools\ResetPadillaProfile.cmd**

@echo off

echo [%date% %time%] Deleting Padilla Reading Room profile >>
C:\Tools\ProfileReset.log

C:\Tools\DelProf2.exe /u /id:"Padilla Reading Room" >> C:\Tools\ProfileReset.log 2>&1

Step 4: Set Up the Scheduled Task

1. Open Task Scheduler *as Administrator*
2. Create a new **Task** (*not* Basic Task)
3. On the **General** tab:

- Name: ResetPadillaProfile
- Run whether user is logged on or not
- Run with highest privileges
- Change user/group: set to SYSTEM

On the **Triggers** tab:

- New trigger: At startup

On the **Actions** tab:

- Start a program: C:\Tools\ResetPadillaProfile.cmd

Save and exit

4. Why It Works

- **DelProf2** cleanly removes both the profile directory and registry entries, preventing corruption or login errors.
- Running at **startup** ensures profile reset happens before any login, providing a fresh experience.
- **SYSTEM privileges** allow deletion of any local user profile without user interaction or permission issues.

5. Optional Enhancements

- Use Group Policy to restrict access to system settings or drives.

Restrict users from:

- Accessing **Control Panel** and **Settings**

- Opening **Drives (like C:)**

- Running **Task Manager**, **CMD**, or **Registry Editor**

- Installing/uninstalling programs

- Seeing admin accounts or other users' files

Applies only to the **Padilla Reading Room** user.

1. Accessing **Control Panel** and **Settings**

Open **gpedit.msc**, then go to each of the following paths:

User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Control Panel

Setting: Prohibit access to Control Panel and PC settings

Action: Enable

1. **Opening Drives (like C:)**

User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > File Explorer

Setting: Prevent access to drives from My Computer

Enable, then choose:

Restrict C drive only

Or Restrict all drives

1. **Remove "Run", "Command Prompt", etc.**

User Configuration > Administrative Templates > Start Menu and Taskbar

Remove Run menu from Start Menu → Enable

Prevent access to the command prompt → Enable

Remove access to the Shut Down, Restart, Sleep → Enable (optional)

1. **Disable Registry Editor**

User Configuration > Administrative Templates > System

Prevent access to registry editing tools → Enable

1. Disable Task Manager

User Configuration > Administrative Templates > System > Ctrl+Alt+Del Options

Remove Task Manager → Enable

- TODO: Add wallpaper and desktop icons to Default profile to pre-seed new sessions.
- Auto-login into Padilla Reading Room account for kiosk-style use (optional)
- TODO: shorten login time
  - remove privacy options on first login using custom xml

6. Troubleshooting

- **Log not created?** Ensure C:\Tools\ProfileReset.log path exists or script has write access.
- **Profile not deleted?** Check Task Scheduler history and confirm it ran as SYSTEM.
- **DelProf2.exe not found?** Double-check the path in the script.
- **Still see old data after reboot?** Make sure Fast Startup is disabled in power settings.

7. Conclusion

This setup ensures a secure guest login experience for shared spaces using native Windows tools and a lightweight utility (delprof2). It is ideal for reading rooms, labs, or conference stations where user data should never persist between sessions.